

WHERE TO RIDE

To find a list of State Parks and Forests that allow OHV operation visit:

www.mass.gov/dcr
(click “Activities” & “ORV/OHV/ATV Trails”)

OHV use is permitted only on designated trails, which are marked with trailhead signage and or orange or yellow trail blazes. There are specific riding seasons and conditions that determine when trail use is permitted. To be sure the trails are open, call ahead.
DCR: (617) 626-1250



OHV PROGRAM FUND

Your recreation vehicle registration revenues are directed to supporting safer operation and improved opportunities for enjoying recreation vehicles. Administered by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, the fund provides financial resources for increased enforcement, improved rider education, and the development and improvement of designated recreation trails in Massachusetts. A Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Committee made up of recreation vehicle users and other stakeholders advises the agencies responsible for managing recreation vehicle use on the allocation of OHV program funds as well as policies and regulations related to recreation vehicle use.

OHV EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Starting February 1, 2011, an approved recreation vehicle safety and responsibility course is required for operators under the age of 18. There will be one mandatory session that a parent or guardian of an operator under the age of 16 must attend. Proof of successful completion of the course must be in the operator’s possession.

To find out more about educational requirements please visit:

www.state.ma.us/dfwele/dle
(click on the Safety Bureau)

Other ATV Safety Course Providers:

ATV Safety Institute (ASI)
(800) 887-2887, www.atvsafety.org

Motorcycle Safety Foundations (MSF)
(877)288-7093, www.dirtbikeschool.com

National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC)
(800) 348-6487, www.nohvcc.org

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

ANY persons operating, riding on or being towed by a recreation vehicle shall wear an approved helmet.

Each recreation vehicle must also be equipped with:

- An adequate braking system.
- An adequate muffler designed to reduce unusual or excessive noise (below 96 dbA) and noxious fumes.
- One or more headlights, a red rear light and a red rear reflector (after sunset, lights must be displayed).
- An attached trailer must have a red rear reflector.



“Promoting Safety through Education”



Massachusetts Environmental Police

www.state.ma.us/dfwele/dle

An Agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Law Enforcement: (800) 632-8075
Safety Bureau: (508) 759-0002

This is only a summary of the recreation vehicle laws, which are subject to change. You must know and observe all local, state, and federal laws. For further information contact the Massachusetts Environmental Police.

MASSACHUSETTS ENVIRONMENTAL POLICE

Boat and Recreation Vehicle Safety Bureau



OFF-HIGHWAY, RECREATION VEHICLE, AND SNOWMOBILE UPDATE

Legislation signed in August of 2010 (Ch. 202 of the Acts of 2010) brings significant changes to Massachusetts Recreation Vehicle Laws. Among the new provisions are educational requirements for young riders, age restrictions for operators of ATVs and UTV’s, increased penalties for illegal use and the establishment of an OHV program fund to support improved riding opportunities and law enforcement. This brochure provides a brief introduction to these changes as well as other important information for recreational vehicle operators.



AGE RESTRICTIONS

Beginning February 1, 2011

No person under the age of 16 ½ shall operate a recreation vehicle across a public way unless directly supervised by an adult.

No person age 14-16 shall operate an all-terrain vehicle or recreation utility vehicle with an engine capacity greater than 90 cubic centimeters. When operating 90cc or under, they must also be directly supervised by an adult.

No person under 14 years of age shall operate an all-terrain vehicle or recreation utility vehicle.

A person age 12-13 may operate a dirt bike if directly supervised by an adult.

A person age 10-11 may operate a dirt bike if directly supervised by an adult and only while on property where the operator lives.

The supervising adult must be 18 years or older and must be sufficiently close to the operator at all times to maintain both visual contact and verbal communications with the operator. The supervising adult shall be held responsible for any operational offenses of the minor.

REGISTRATION

Recreation vehicles operated on public or private property must be registered through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (except if used exclusively for agricultural, forestry, lumbering or construction purposes. Application required). Registration must be in operator's possession, and assigned registration shall be displayed. Out of state registrations are not valid in Massachusetts.

Registration Offices:

Boston
251 Causeway St.
(617) 626-1610

Fall River
218 S. Main St.
(508) 679-8287

Springfield
165 Liberty St.
(413) 733-1642

Worcester
67 Millbrook Street
(508) 753-0603

Hyannis
60 Perseverance Wy
(508) 771-8382



THEFT

It is important to keep your OHV owner information in a safe place. Report thefts to your local police department and provide them with your registration, VIN, and vehicle description. The VIN, or vehicle identification number, will consist of 17 alpha-numeric characters. This information will be forwarded to the Theft Division of the Massachusetts Environmental Police for follow up.

PROHIBITED OPERATION

Operating under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

Operating across a public way, unless it is marked and approved for recreation vehicles.

Operating on unapproved public ways or upon or across a controlled access highway.

Failure to come to a complete stop when crossing an approved public way (must yield to traffic).

Operating to endanger or at speeds that are unsafe for conditions.

Operating on land of another without written permission of the owner.

Operating within 150 feet of an occupied residence without permission of the owner.

Operating in a manner that causes damage to public or private property.

Operating on an ocean beach or sand dune in a manner to destroy, damage or break down the beach or dune.

Operating in a manner to harass or chase wildlife or domestic animals.

Operating on a wetland so as to destroy or damage, if such areas have been designated and posted as protected wetland areas.

Emitting Noxious Fumes and Excessive Noise.

Operating with a loaded firearm, rifle, or shotgun.



DRIVING INTOXICATED

Operating an OHV under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol will result in fines, driver's license restrictions, suspensions or penalties, and impoundment of the off-highway vehicle.



ACCIDENTS

The operator or owner of a recreation vehicle involved in a collision, accident or other such casualty resulting in death or injury to a person or damage to property in excess of \$50 shall notify a law enforcement officer immediately and file a written report of the incident with the Massachusetts Environmental Police within 48 hours.

There are new penalties and fines for:

- Operating recklessly or negligently so lives or safety of the public might be endangered.
- Leaving the scene without stopping and making known his name, address and registration number after colliding with or causing injury to an operator, property, or another recreation vehicle.
- Operating recklessly or negligently and causing serious injury or death by such operation.